

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: UK TEXTILE MONITORING SYSTEM

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REF: LONDON 4700 (NOTAL)

1. BUFORD BRANDIS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN TEXTILES MANUFACTURERS INSTITUTE (TRADE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING MOST OF US TEXTILE INDUSTRY), TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT TO EXPRESS OFFICIALLY HIS ASSOCIATION'S CONCERN OVER THE UK TEXTILE MONITORING SYSTEM. ASSOCIATION FEARS THAT MONITORING IS BUT PRELUDE TO IMPORT RESTRAINTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF VOLUME CURRENT US TEXTILE EXPORTS TO UK, WOULD

AFFECT US TEXTILE INDUSTRY QUITE SERIOUSLY. IN ADDITION, ATMI FEARS THAT SIMILAR MONITORING STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN ELSEWHERE (INCLUDING PERHAPS OTHER EC COUNTRIES), CAUSING FURTHER ANXIETIES AMONG TEXTILE TRADING NATIONS. BRANDIS STATED ASSOCIATION HAS DISPATCHED CIRCULAR LETTER, THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE EXPORT COMMITTEE, TO MAJOR UK IMPORTERS OF US TEXTILE PRODUCTS EXPRESSING ASSOCIATION'S CONCERN AND ASKING THOSE IMPORTERS FOR ANY QUOTE READINGS UNQUOTE THEY MAY OBTAIN OVER NEXT TWO WEEKS CONCERNING THE MONITORING.

2. BRANDIS VOLUNTEERED THAT, TO HIS ASSOCIATION'S

KNOWLEDGE, NO US PRODUCER WAS ENGAGED IN DUMPING OPERATIONS BUT DID STATE THAT US SYNTHETIC PRODUCERS WERE MORE COMPETITIVE THAN VIRTUALLY ANY EUROPEAN SYNTHETIC PRODUCERS. HE SAID LANDED US SYNTHETIC YARN AND FABRIC PRICES IN UK HIGHER THAN THOSE IN US BUT LOWER THAN EUROPEAN PRODUCERS (OFTER INCLUDING UK) WERE ABLE TO DELIVER. HE ALSO STATED THAT NUMBER OF UK AND EUROPEAN USERS PREFER US SYNTHETIC PRODUCTS BECUASE OF PROMPTER DELIVERIES AND FACT THAT US PRODUCERS DID NOT TRY TO GOUGE UK USERS A YEAR AGO WHEN SYNTHETIC YARNS AND FABRIC SUPPLIES SHORT. HE STATED BLUNTLY THAT MOST EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS DID JUST THE OPPOSITE, LOSING SIGNIFICANT GOOD

WILL AND FUTURE ORDERS.

3. SEVERAL TOP MEMBERS OF ATMI WILL TRAVEL TO GENEVA AT TIME OF FORTHCOMING GATT TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING (APRIL 22-24). THEY PLAN, IF SITUATION WARRANTS, TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETURN VIA BRUSSELS AND LONDON TO CONSULT PRIVATELY AND

QUITELY WITH THEIR TRADE ASSOCIATION COUNTERPARTS AND EUROPEAN TEXTILE CONTRACTS. PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO CONVEY ATMI'S CONCERN OVER UK ACTION AND TO EXERT WHATEVER INFLUENCE IT CAN SO THAT UK MONITORING SYSTEM DOES

NOT, IN FACT, TURN OUT TO BE THE PRELUDE TO IMPORT CONTROLS

IF THESE SIDE-VISITS MATERIALIZE, THE ATMI EXECUTIVES

INDICATED THAT THEY MAY WISH TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR GREENWALD IN BRUSSELS (AS WELL AS COMITEXTIL) AND MINISTER MILLER IN LONDON. WHILE DEPARTMENT IS NOT, OF COURSE, INVOLVED IN SUCH A VISIT, ATMI HAS ASKED IF WE WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, AND WE HAVE NOT OBJECTED.

4. ATMI TEAM LIKELY TO BE COMPOSED OF JAMES FINLEY, PRESIDENT OF JPSTEVENS, ROBERT LYNN, PRESIDENT OF BURLINGTON, RAY SHOCKLEY, DEP. EXEC. V. P. OF ATMI, AND BRANDIS. IF VISIT IS UNDERTAKEN, DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE BRUSSELS AND LONDON. KISSINGER

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